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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-10 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

/090 W
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R 021614Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMMAN AND BEIRUT FOR LABATTS

DEPT PASS TO EUR, ATTN: DAN GOOTT

E.0. 11652: NXA
TAGS: ELAB, SP, JO
SUBJ: SPANISH OVERTURE TO JORDANIAN LABOR FEDERATION

REF: AMMAN 2851 (NOTAL)

1. ENRIQUE LEON, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS SPANISH LABATT IN WASHINGTON, WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED INT'S AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OF GOVT-CONTROLLED SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO). SSO IS SPANISH GOVT'S LABOR ORGANIZATION, TO WHICH ALL OF SPAIN'S WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS MUST BELONG. SSO IS ONLY LEGALLY PERMITTED TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IN FRANCO SPAIN, IS HEADED BY A CABINET MINISTER AND IS REGIME INSTITUTION WHICH RETAINS HEAVIEST FALANGIST AND CORPORATIVIST STATE ORIENTATION.

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2. IN INT'L SPHERE, SSO IS SOMETHING OF A PARIAH AND IS

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BOYCOTTED BY SUCH INT'L TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS AS ICFTU, WCL, AND WFTU, AS WELL AS BY VIRTUALLY ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CENTERS, BY AFL-CIO, AND BY MOST LATIN AMERICAN CENTERS. ADDITIONALLY, SSO IS ATTACKED FREQUENTLY AT ILO AS PHONEY LABOR FRONT OF "FASCIST" REGIME AND BECAUSE OF ABSENCE NORMAL TRADE UNION RIGHTS, SUCH AS RIGHT TO STRIKE, IN SPAIN.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, SSO HAS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS OVER YEARS WITH SOME SCATTERED TRADE UNION CENTERS, SUCH AS ARGENTINE PERONIST CGT, AND ON IDICIDUAL BASIS WITH SOME TRADE UNIONISTS SUCH AS VARIOUS ASSORTED LATIN AMERICANS WHOSE OWN UNIONS BOYCOTT SPANISH (SEVERL OF LATTER HAVE VISITED SPAIN AS GUESTS OF SSO). ADDITIONALLY, SSO PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED TIES WITH SORMER GOVT-SPONSORED UNIONS IN CAETANO'S PORTUGAL AND IN GREECE UNDER GREEK COLONELS REGIME.

4. SOME 3-4 YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, AND FOLLOWING LEAD SPANISH GOVT IN PURSUIT ITS PRO-ARAB POLICY, SSO COMMENCED TO ESTABLISH AND PURSUE CONTACTS WITH TRADE UNIONS IN ARAB WORLD. LABATT KNOWS SSO WAS AT LEAST SUCCESSFUL WITH EGYPT AND IRAQ, AND DURING 1972
AND 1973 SSO DELEGATIONS PAID SEPARATE VISITS TO CAIRO AND BAGHDAD, IN WHICH RESPECTIVE TRADE UNIONS THOSE TWO COUNTRIES WERE HOSTS, AND RECIPROCATED BY SUBSEQUENTLY HOSTING VISITS OF DELGATIONS OF EGYPTIAN AND IRAQI TRADE UNIONISTS IN MADRID.

5. COMMENT: LEON'S LETTER TO JORDANIAN TRADE UNIONIST SEEMS TO INDICATE SSO EFFORTS TO REACTIVATE AND EXTEND SSO INITIATIVES IN ARAB WORLD.
STABLER

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